From:	Anna Finklestein
To:	Kelley, Craig
Subject:	Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
Date:	Wednesday, April 18, 2018 11:56:46 AM

Hi Craig,

Unfortunately, I teach from 8-4 PM M-Friday. Any chance you have additional hours?

Best,
Anna

On Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:15 PM, Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Hi Anna:
>
> I would be happy to meet with you. My regular office hours are Mondays from 1-3 PM and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 AM in Central Square. If you are interested, please email to confirm time and place.
>
> Best,
>
> Craig
>
> **From:** Anna Finklestein [mailto:anna.p.finklestein@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 11:28 AM
> **To:** Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
>
> Dear Councilor Kelley,
>
> Thank you for your prompt response! I'm glad to hear that you will be meeting with folks on both sides of the issue.
>
> As someone who identifies strongly as an American Jew, I am curious to know more about what you think it means to "legitimize" or "delegitimize" Israel--or any nation, for that matter. At what point does critique or critical action become delegitimizing? How does divesting from a corporation that is complicit in human rights abuses around the world (including here in this country, like mass incarceration) become an act of delegitimization? Cambridge has historically taken stances on various issues around the world, this would not be the first. A few years ago, for instance, the city celebrated its support of the Polaroid boycott in connection with South African Apartheid at our local library.

The Massachusetts against HP campaign is not singling out Israel. It's also calling into question HP's connection to racist policies around the world, including in the United States. Happy to share more, if you're interested! As both a Jewish Day school educator and the product of Zionist schooling, I am well aware of antisemitic undertones (and overtones) in progressive spaces; however, the accusation that *all* challenges of Israel are antisemitic is simply lacking in evidence.

I would be happy to share more if you are interested.

Best,

Anna

On Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 8:37 AM, Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Thanks for your note, Anna.
>
> I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School last week. I am meeting with pro and con folks next week and the week after to learn more.
>
> Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.
>
> I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.

> But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.
>
> Craig